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38. (previously presented) The system of claim 37, said sorter sorting the items at the hubs using the retrieved information.

39. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising a plurality of distribution centers and a central hub, said instrument transporting the items from local hubs to the centers or the central hub, said device applying the query signals and receiving said information provided by the labels at the centers or the central hub.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said labels include no energy source, or controller or microprocessor and are suitable for attachment to the items.

41. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising a recorder that writes said information into each of at least some of the labels, said recorder writing into each label information related to name, address, telephone number or zip code related to destinations, and/or tracking number or special delivery instructions related to the item associated with such label.

42. (previously presented) A method for tracking items in a delivery system, comprising:

writing into a plurality of storage labels at one or more receiving stations, said labels having transmitters, each of the labels associated with an item, said information in each label concerning delivery of the item, said information useful for automated sorting and tracking the items along their passage to destinations;

transporting the items and their associated labels to a local distribution center or central hub;

applying query signals to the labels to retrieve the information at the local distribution center or central hub and to cause said labels to provide said information through their transmitters, wherein said transmitters are caused to transmit said information by means of energy of the query signals received by the labels; and

sorting the items by means of the information retrieved.

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43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said transporting transports by means comprising delivery motor vehicles.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising delivering the sorted items to destinations.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said writing writes into each label information related to name, address, telephone number or zip code related to destinations, and/or tracking number or special delivery instructions related to the item associated with such label.

46. (previously presented) A system for tracking items for delivery comprising:
a plurality of storage labels, said labels having transmitters, each of said plurality of storage labels at one or more receiving outlets having information concerning delivery of an associated item, said information in each label useful for automated sorting and tracking the item along its passage to a destination;

an instrument transporting the items with their associated labels to a local distribution center or central hub;

a device applying query signals to the labels to retrieve the information at the local distribution center or central hub, said labels providing said information through their transmitters, wherein said transmitters are caused to transmit said information by means of energy of the query signals received by the labels;

a sorter sorting the items by means of the information retrieved.

47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said instrument comprises delivery motor vehicles.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising delivery motor vehicles delivering the sorted items to destinations.

49. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising a recorder writing into each label information related to name, address, telephone number or zip code related to destinations, and/or tracking number or special delivery instructions related to the item associated with such label.

50. (previously presented) A method for tracking items in a delivery system, each of the items associated with a storage label, said labels having transmitters and stored therein information concerning delivery of the items, said information in each label useful for automated sorting and tracking the items along their passage to destinations; comprising:

transporting the items and their associated labels;

applying query signals to the labels to retrieve the information and to cause said labels to provide said information through their transmitters, wherein said transmitters are caused to transmit said information by means of energy of the query signals received by the labels; and

sorting the items by means of the information retrieved.

51. (previously presented) A system for tracking items in a delivery system, each of the items associated with a storage label, said labels having transmitters and stored therein information concerning delivery of the items, said information in each label useful for automated sorting and tracking the items along their passage to destinations; comprising:

an instrument transporting the items and their associated labels;

a device applying query signals to the labels to retrieve the information and to cause said labels to provide said information through their transmitters, wherein said transmitters are caused to transmit said information by means of energy of the query signals received by the labels; and

a sorter sorting the items by means of the information retrieved.